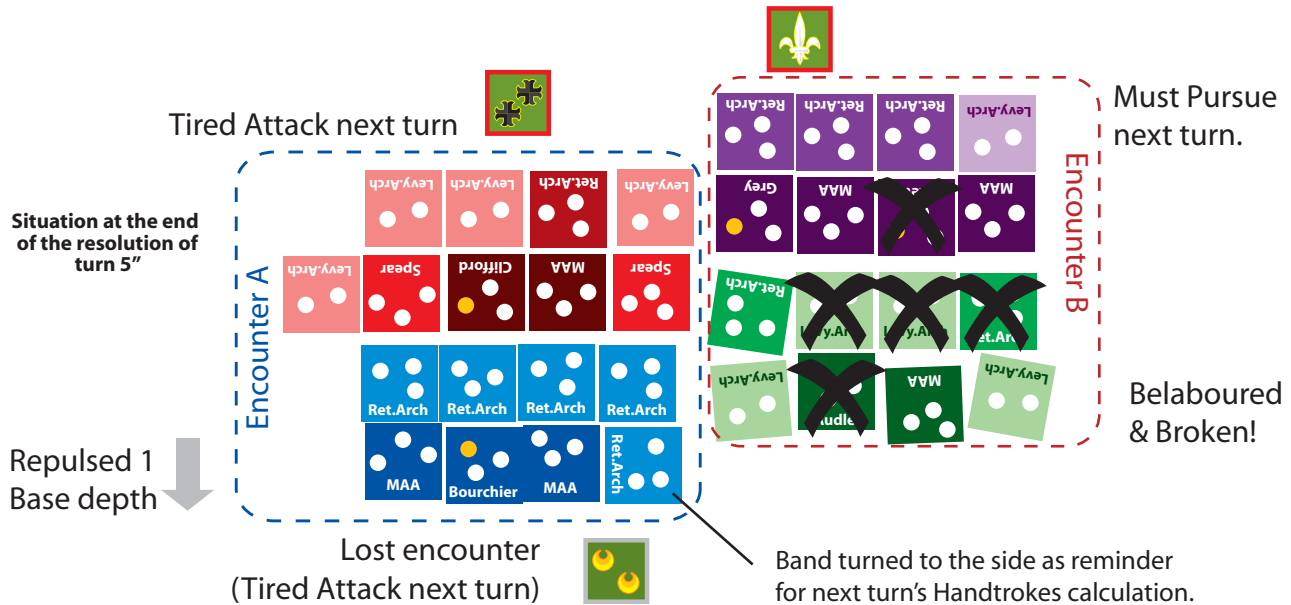


Combat Example- Part 5: Handstrokes II



A. It's still Turn 5 and now Audley and Exeter will resolve their encounter.

Exeter hopes to deal quickly with Audley- he sees that Audley has only 1 point of Courage, due to him being Uncommitted. He also will have trouble taking Courage Checks for the same reason. Along with the fact that Exeter himself has 5 puissance, he also goes for "I'll Not Shrink Back." Audley hopes to do some casualties, and picks "Thrust Home, Lads"

B. Calculating the strengths- Audley has 16, Exeter has 28, +5 for himself= 33. Audley pulls a 2, Exeter a 5; the final totals are Audley 18, Exeter 38. The hazard on Exeter's card for Audley's stance shows Belaboured. Audley is in big trouble.

C. Checking the hazard Effects table, for Belaboured shows Heavy Casualties for Audley (the loser), Light for Exeter (the winner). Audley also must take a Courage Check at -1 level of Commitment- which doesn't mean that much for him, as he is already Uncommitted. He takes the test- and loses his last commitment point. His company is Discouraged.

D. Meanwhile the casualties must be determined. Looking up at the Handstrokes Casualties section of the QRS, we see that Audley must take 2 Casualties automatically (from those in contact, according to the hazard on Exeter's stance card). On top of this, he gets another +1 Casualty from his opponent having at least +10 strength on him. If Exeter had had only 2 more strength points, casualties would have been doubled, resulting in a complete overthrow of the losing company.

Exeter himself must also take a light casualties (from those in contact as well). This means he loses a single band- which annoys him, as it will be a precious Men at Arms.

Audley's Stance: Thrust Home, Lads		
Enemy	Bonus	Hazard to Enemy
	• Melee -1 • Contact Only	Stuck In; Casualties- In Contact Only
	• Melee +1 • Contact, 1/2 Rest	Belaboured; Casualties- Greater Diff. (Weaker) 1st
	• Melee +1 • Contact Only	Stuck In; Casualties- Lightest 1st

Clifford's Stance: I'll Not Shrink Back		
Enemy	Bonus	Hazard to Enemy
	• Melee +0 • Contact, 1/2 Rest	Belaboured Casualties- In Contact Only
	• Melee -1 • Contact, 1/2 Rest	Repulsed
	• Melee -1 • Contact, 1/2 Rest	Belaboured; Casualties- Greater Differ. (Weaker) 1st

E. Since both sides drew casualties, both must check for Commander Casualties. Exeter, who played "I'll Not Shrink Back," will be killed on an 8+.... and he draws a 3 and a 6! The Lancastrian player gasps! The Duke of Exeter has fallen! Audley can't believe his luck, until- he draws two 6's himself! What a bloody supper we have here!

F. The repercussions will be felt throughout the board- but first, to the units involved. Audley's company must lose a point of Courage for losing their commander, but since they were already discouraged, they are broken- their stands are turned about, and next turn they will rout. Exeter's company will not rout, as they will still have one Courage left- losing one for Exeter's fall, and another for the end of the encounter. They also already have another commander at hand within the unit- Lord Grey, of Groby He will have to take an immediate Courage Check, but being a Committed Lancastrian, he passes. Next turn he will pursue the fleeing Yorkists.

G. Bouchier, as Ward Commander must now take a Faltering check for losing one of his companies. He manages to pass it. That ends the handstroke phase for turn 5. However, it's not the end of our story. The Lancastrians must now place a Verse on their Chronicle for losing Exeter, who was a Prop to their Cause. They choose "...cureless his wounds..." There is no need for any further action during the "Assaying the Cause" phase, as only the first square on the Chronicle has been covered. There is still more to write. Although Audley has been slain on the Yorkist side, he was neither a Prop nor a Ward Commander, so there is no addition to their Chronicle. But how long can Bouchier hold out against the matchless fury of Bloody Clifford?.